

Dickinson
County News
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PHOTO BY ANITRA WOLF : DCN STAFF

Community representatives will hope to convince the state's Citizen's Advisory Committee that Dickinson and Clay counties should be among the state's pilot "Great Places" projects. Attendees at the meeting will discuss the pleasing environment as well as social fabric, vital economy and creative culture of the region.

Clay-Dickinson hope to become one of Iowa's Great Places

BY TRACY TUCKER
DCN STAFF

Ask anyone in the Iowa Great Lakes, and they will say this is a great place. There is an opportunity to help make it official this week.

Members of the state's Citizen's Advisory Committee will come to the Lakes Art Center from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22 to watch a presentation on "The Great Waters and Great Prairies of Clay

SCHEDULE

A "Great Places" presentation will be held from 1 - 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Lakes Art Center in Okoboji. Community attendance is encouraged.

and Dickinson Counties."

Local residents from Clay and Dickinson Counties have teamed up to apply to become

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one of three pilot "Great Places" to be announced Oct. 11 in Iowa City.

"The state Citizen Advisory Committee, those are the decision makers for the state that will identify the three pilot projects they will promote in Iowa," said Amelia Painter, chair of the team that has made an effort to have Clay and Dickinson counties named one of Iowa's Great Places. "There were 145 applicants from around the state for these three spots."

Coaches were sent to aid the applicants in discovering what makes that particular area one of Iowa's Great Places.

The one hour presentation will feature several presenters discussing several topics including the unique sense of place, engaging experiences, the rich social fabric, the vital economy, pleasing environment, strong foundation, creative culture, long term and short term visions.

Presenters include Jim Schooley of Spencer, Deidre Rosenboom of Spirit Lake, Martin Arthur of Spencer, Ann Ditsworth of the University of Okoboji Foundation, Steve Anderson of the Clean Water Alliance, Abbey Larson of Okoboji Tourism, Sheryl Hall of Spirit Lake, Curtis Dean of Spencer, John Goede of Spencer, Jeanne Bogenreif of Spencer and Herman Richter of Milford.

A Power Point presentation will also be shown detailing pictures of the area in regards to the various topics addressed.

If "The Great Waters and Great Prairies of Clay and Dickinson Counties" is awarded one of Iowa's Great Places, this area will be a priority



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for state grants and existing funds.

"We just kind of have to depend upon the fact that the state is really going to recognize these three pilot areas and promote them," Painter said. "We figure since they've spent so much money sending out trainers and developing this program, they will do something."

Community attendance is encouraged at this presentation. In order to demonstrate the wide array of businesses, clubs and organizations in the area, those attending should wear clothing that reflects their business or organization.

"If you're a nurse, come in your scrubs," said Painter. "If you belong to the Kiwanis club wear a shirt with the Kiwanis logo. We encourage everyone in the community to come and support us so these people making the decisions can see everyone here really believes this is one of Iowa's Great Places."

The three pilot areas will be named Oct. 11 and the hope is to use these areas as a test method in hopes of selecting more Great Places in Iowa in the future.

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